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RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 0194  
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL 4115  
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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [SNAR](#) [PREL](#) [ECON](#) [PE](#)  
SUBJECT: ELECTION UPDATE: CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE FILINGS  
COMPLETE; AND HUMALA FACES CONTINUING TROUBLES

REF: A. LIMA 633  
[1](#)B. LIMA 494  
[1](#)C. LIMA 453  
[1](#)D. LIMA 382  
[1](#)E. LIMA 351  
[1](#)F. LIMA 346

Sensitive but Unclassified. Please protect accordingly.

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Summary  
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[1](#)1. (U) Twenty five political parties met the 2/8 deadline for filing their congressional lists, resulting in some 3,000 Congressional candidates for 120 seats. The two leading presidential contenders, center-right Lourdes Flores and ultra-nationalist, anti-system candidate Ollanta Humala were both battered in the press for including candidates with past or ongoing judicial investigations. Humala faced increasing charges of human rights violations from his time as army base commander in the early 1990's, but his party spokesman fired back that the testimonies were bought by Flores' party. End summary

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Front-runner Flores  
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2.(U) Flores spent the past week defending her party's congressional candidates. As many as 17 Unidad Nacional candidates reportedly are involved in open judicial processes, while several others are alleged to have had close ties to Fujimori's former national security adviser Vladimiro Montesinos. Flores maintained the candidates on her list and did not bow to pressure. On 2/6 Garcia challenged Flores, and only Flores, to debate him on the hot domestic issue of the state pension system and the freedom of workers to voluntarily decline participation (Garcia favors, Flores opposes). Flores said she would not debate with Garcia on the specific issue, but called on the Ombudsman to organize general debates in March. Beatriz Merino, Chief Ombudsman, declined the responsibility stating her organization's need to monitor the electoral process and not get directly involved. Flores continued to support debates in March before the first round and said this would allow each candidate to explain his/her ideas. Humala rejected the

possibility of a debate before the first round, while Paniagua said he is willing to participate in a debate under any formula.

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Humala's Troubles  
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¶3. (U) Ollanta Humala's campaign continues to be on the defensive as further allegations of human rights violations and turmoil regarding members of his congressional list dominated his press coverage. On 2/7 Humala admitted he was known by the alias "Captain Carlos" (Ref B), but claims he was not/not Captain Carlos Gonzalez, who purportedly committed human rights crimes. Humala denied killing anyone while he was commander of an army base at Madre Mia during the early 1990's, and called on the Defense Ministry to respond to the accusations against him. Nationalist Party spokesman, Daniel Abugattas went on the offensive and claimed that Unidad Nacional paid for false testimonies against Humala and that respected television journalist Cesar Hildebrandt was removed from his program because he was going to reveal evidence of this plot. The Human Rights Coordinator's office announced it was preparing criminal denunciations against Humala.

¶4. (U) In response to accusations that candidates on his congressional ticket had criminal records, Humala asked all UPP candidates to put their candidacies at his disposition. For his party's official congressional list submitted before the 2/8 deadline, thirteen candidates were changed. Liliana Humala, Ollanta's cousin and fellow nationalist, switched parties before the deadline to join the Democratic

Reconstruction party. Humala's Congressional list brought to a head the internal conflicts within his UPP party and between it and the Nationalist Party of Peru. Some of Humala's provincial bases in both parties rebelled and said they would not support his candidacy because he rejected their internally nominated candidates.

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Military Vote  
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¶5. (U) Minister of Defense Marciano Rengifo said that though 85,000 military are registered to vote for the first time, over half (46,500) will be responsible for electoral security and thus will be unable to vote. Humala called on the JNE to order the National Office for Electoral Process (ONPE) to install voting tables for the transient military and police guarding the electoral process and those who are outside their voting districts, noting that otherwise on-duty officers cannot vote. JNE President Enrique Mendoza dismissed Humala's request and explained that it was technically and economically impossible. However, Mendoza called on the Defense and Interior ministries to cooperate in letting on-duty personnel vote.

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Comment  
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¶6. (SBU) The campaign generally is becoming more personalistic, with increased reporting on the verbal swipes candidates are taking at each other, and considerably less on debating the issues. There have even been reports of outbreaks of violence between supporters on a limited basis to date. Interestingly, this more aggressive ambiance has led to little change in the polling numbers (Ref A). The Martha Chavez rise could split the anti-system vote which Humala depends on, but it might also draw off poor women who are currently Flores supporters. Garcia has been stagnant, but should not be counted out due to his charisma, political acumen, and APRA party machine. Paniagua is becoming more irrelevant and, if his downward trend continues, he may be pressured to drop out and further pressured to endorse someone else. End Comment.

